

FILED IN THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

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SEAN F. MCAVOY, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

-vs-

MARIO PATRICIO-CAZARES,

Defendant.

No. 2:20-CR-0026-WFN-1

ORDER DISMISSING THE
INDICTMENT WITH PREJUDICE

13 A pretrial conference and motion hearing was held October 29, 2020. The Defendant,
14 who is not in custody, was present and represented by Houston Goddard and assisted by
15 Court-appointed interpreter Bea Rump; Assistant United States Attorney Michael Ellis
16 represented the Government.

17 The parties presented argument on Defendant's First Motion to Dismiss Case. ECF
18 No. 43. The Court indicated an inclination to grant the First Motion to Dismiss so declined
19 to hear argument on the Second Motion to Dismiss. Upon further reflection and review of
20 the briefing, the Court grants Defendant's First Motion to Dismiss Case. The facts are not
21 in dispute. Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE] served a Notice to Appear on
22 Defendant that specified that the date and time would be set at a later date. The parties also
23 agree that Defendant *never* received notice of the date and time of the removal hearing.

24 The parties agree that the Motion hinges on whether provisions pertaining to notice
25 in the regulation, § 1003.14, entitled "Jurisdiction and commencement of proceedings" must
26 be met to confer jurisdiction on the Immigration Court. The Government argues that despite
27 the clear language of the regulation that when the regulation says "jurisdiction" it really
28 means "claim-processing rule." The Court disagrees. The plain language of the regulation

1 and an interpretive BIA decision refer to jurisdiction. "[A] notice to appear that does not
 2 specify the time and place of an alien's initial removal hearing vests an Immigration Judge
 3 with jurisdiction over the removal proceedings . . . so long as a notice of hearing specifying
 4 this information is later sent to the alien," *Karingithi v. Whitaker*, 913 F.3d 1158 (2019)
 5 (citing *Matter of Bermudez-Cota*, 27 I. & N. Dec. 441 (BIA 2018) (emphasis added).
 6 Though the Government is technically correct that the Ninth Circuit has not specifically
 7 addressed whether or not notifying an alien of the time and place of their hearing is a
 8 jurisdictional issue or not, the Ninth Circuit has repeatedly noted in each of the cases
 9 considered that the alien had received actual, often repeated, notice of the time, date, and
 10 place of the removal hearing. Providing the hearing information after the initial service of
 11 a Notice to Appear "cures" an incomplete Notice to Appear vesting jurisdiction on the
 12 immigration court. *See Aguilar Fermin v. Barr*, 958 F.3d 887, 895 (Ninth Cir. 2020).

13 The Court decides this case based on the conclusion that jurisdiction had not vested
 14 with the immigration court because the incomplete Notice to Appear was never cured with
 15 further direction regarding the time and date of the hearing. However, the Court notes that
 16 failure to provide notice of when a hearing is to occur is a flagrant violation of due process.
 17 Notifying a party regarding the time and date of a hearing that substantially affects their
 18 rights is a minimum requirement of due process. Failure to provide such notice hinders the
 19 alien's ability to secure counsel, learn of their legal rights and defenses, and otherwise
 20 adequately defend their position in court.

21 The Court has reviewed the file and Motions and is fully informed. This Order is
 22 entered to memorialize and supplement the oral rulings of the Court. Accordingly,

23 **IT IS ORDERED** that:

24 1. Defendant's First Motion to Dismiss, filed October 2, 2020, **ECF No. 43**, is
 25 **GRANTED**.

26 2. The Indictment is **DISMISSED with prejudice**.

27 3. Defendant's Second Motion to Dismiss, filed October 2, 2020, **ECF No. 44**, is

28 **DENIED AS MOOT.**

1 The District Court Executive is directed to file this Order and provide copies to
2 counsel.

3 **DATED** this 2nd day of November, 2020.

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WM. FREMMING NIELSEN
SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE